

كنيسة مار نقولا الأنطاكية الأرثوذكسية

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

5200 Diamond Heights Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94131

Tel: (415) 648-5200

Email: info@stnicholas-sf.com--website: stnicholas-sf.com

His Eminence **Metropolitan JOSEPH**, Archbishop
of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

Pastor, V. Rev. **Fr. George Baalbaki**

(586) 214-4428 revbaalbaki@yahoo.com

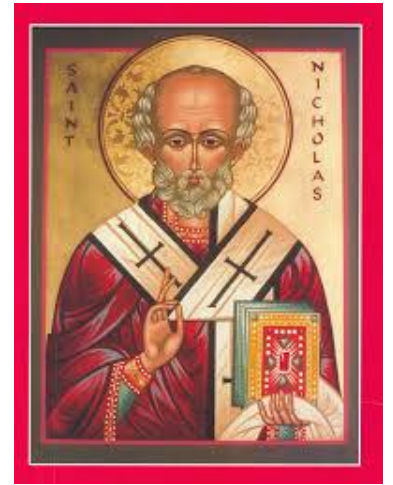
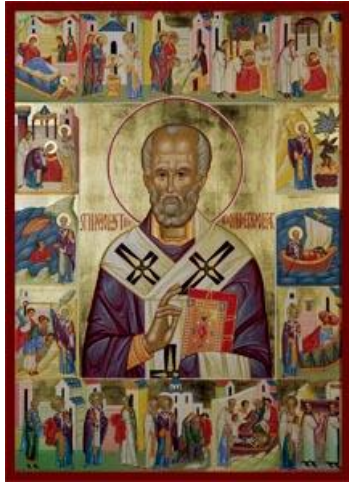
Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**

Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Parish Council Chairman: **Ramzi Srouji**

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



Sunday, September 06, 2020

The miracle of the Archangel Michael in Colossae

IMPORTANT NOTICE: We regret to inform you that the city and county of San Francisco has decided to slow down the state of California's reopening plan for churches.

We were excited to share the news with you but, unfortunately, the city's new plan for churches has pushed back reopening to the public. The goal for San Francisco is now to reopen at the end of September for indoor services. Here is the mayor's announcement:

<https://sfmayor.org/article/mayor-london-breed-announces-san-franciscos-plan-further-reopening-businesses-and-activities>

Based on the ongoing situation regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus), all Church social events and gatherings are postponed until further notice. **Church is not open to the public.** Please watch the livestream of the service on our social media.

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrDWWPWreLZpVhzVGZkjDIA>

We pray for the good health, well-being, and safety of everyone in these hard times. God bless!

COMMUNION: As you know, it is very important in our faith to regularly take Communion. Many of us have not had the blessing of taking it since the pandemic started. For those who'd like to take it, Communion will be available this Sunday and every Sunday, **AFTER CHURCH BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.** Please call Father George at 586 214 4428 to set up your appointment. God bless!

THE EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians (16:13-24) Brethren, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, and be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men. The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

يا إخوة اسهروا، اثبتوا على الإيمان، كونوا رجالاً، تشددوا. ولتكن أموركم كلها بالمحبة، وأطلب اليكم أيها الإخوة بما أنكم تعرفون بيت استفاناس، أنه باكورة أخائية وقد خصصوا أنفسهم لخدمة القديسين، أن تخضعوا أنتم أيضاً لمثل هؤلاء ولكل من يُعاون ويتعب. إني فرح بحضور استفاناس وفرتوناتوس وأخاتكوس لأن نقصانكم هؤلاء قد جبروه فأراحوا روحي وأرواحكم. فاعرفوا مثل هؤلاء. تُسلم عليكم كنائس آسية. يُسلم عليكم في الرب كثيراً أكيلاً وبرسكلاً والكنيسة التي في بيتهما. يُسلم عليكم جميع الإخوة. سلّموا بعضكم على بعض بقبلة مقدسة. السلام بيدي أنا بولس. إن كان أحد لا يحب ربنا يسوع المسيح فليكن مفروزاً. ماران أثنا نعمة ربنا يسوع المسيح معكم. محبتي مع جميعكم في المسيح يسوع، آمين.

THE GOSPEL: St. Matthew (21:33-42)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'"

الإنجيل: متى ٢١: ٣٣-٤٢

قال الرب هذا المثل: إنسان رب بيت غرس كرماً وحوطه بسياج وحفر فيه معصرة وبنى برجاً وسلمه إلى عملة وسافر. فلما قرب أوان الثمر أرسل عبيده إلى العملة ليأخذوا ثمره. فأخذ العملة عبيده وجلدوا بعضاً وقتلوا بعضاً ورجموا بعضاً. فأرسل عبيداً آخرين أكثر من الأولين فصنعوا بهم كذلك. وفي الآخر أرسل إليهم ابنه قائلاً: سيهابون ابني. فلما رأى العملة الابن قالوا فيما بينهم: هذا هو الوارث، هلم نقتله ونستولي على ميراثه. فأخذوه وأخرجوه خارج الكرم وقتلوه. فمتى جاء رب الكرم، فماذا يفعل بأولئك العملة؟ فقالوا له إنه يهلك أولئك الأعداء أرباً هلاكاً ويسلم الكرم إلى عملة آخرين يؤدون له الثمر في أوانه. فقال لهم يسوع: أما قرأتم قط في الكتب إن الحجر الذي رذله البنّاؤون هو صار رأساً للزاوية؟ من قبل الرب كان ذلك وهو عجيب في أعيننا.

To the Faithful of St. Nicholas Church:

These past few months have been unprecedented in the history of our parish. While we have not been physically present in church, we have, thanks to Clemence Batarse and her team, still been able to participate in the Divine Liturgy on Sunday through Live Streaming. As of this time, we do not know when we can return to "normal." We want to thank those who have continued to be current on their pledge. We still have our financial responsibilities and your support enables us to meet our obligations. The most convenient way to send your donation is through Online Giving. Go to our website: stnicholas-sf.com and you will see "Click here to donate online" or mail a check to the church office. May our Lord continue to watch over you and your loved ones, protect us and keep us safe from every adversary.

ALTAR CANDLE OFFERING:

Offered by **Elham Azar** and family for the good health of **Azar, Elham, David, Taleen, and Mila**. God bless and many years!

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FOOD CATERING FOR PICKUP: We would like to thank all the ladies who donated and worked on the food during the month of August: Khoureh Eman Baalbaki, Inam Shami, Mona Mansour, Sue Rantisi, Suha Rantisi, Janet Baqleh, Leila Paolina, Odette Najjar, Elham Azar, Rana Abuyaghi, Noura Abuyaghi, Juliette Najjar, and Randa Shatara. Thank you for your hard work! **For pickup on Sunday September 13th** we will be offering Tahal (Stuffed Spleen) for \$5/piece. Janet Azar will be offering Hilbeh (Dessert) for \$2/piece or \$7/quarter of a sheet. Please order by Thursday September 10th. Thank you and God bless.

Tahal (Stuffed spleen):



Hilbeh (Dessert):



ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

- ❖ **Teen SOYO Movie Night Under the Stars: Friday, September 11th @ 6PM.** This is a joint event with Church Of The Redeemer in Los Altos. Bring your own blankets and snacks. Sign up sheet and flyer will be shared.
- ❖ **Teen SOYO Elections: Sunday September 13th @ 2PM.** Live via zoom and/or Instagram.

Metropolitan Anthony: The Rich Young Man

The Lord warns us today of how difficult it is for a man who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God. Does it mean that the Kingdom of God is open only to destitute, to those who are materially poor, who lack everything on earth? No. The Kingdom of God is open to all who are not enslaved by possessions. When we read the first Beatitude, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven', we are given a key to this saying: the poor in spirit are those who have understood that they possess nothing which is their own. We have been created as an act of God, loved into existence; we are offered by God communion with Him to which we have no rights. All we are, all we possess is not our own in the sense that we have not made ourselves, we did not create what is seemingly ours - everything which we are and which we have is love, the love of God and the love of people, and we cannot possess anything because everything is a gift that escapes us the moment we want to have possession of it and say, "It is mine".

On the other hand, the Kingdom of God is really the kingdom of those who are aware that they are infinitely rich because we can expect everything from love divine and from human love. We are

saints of these islands, by the Gospel of love and humanity. Consider all this and ask yourselves, 'am I not a worker in the vineyard, and am I not one of those who pushes Christ away every time He enters my life? Do I not say: get off my path, get out of my life — I want to be the God, the master, I want to manage everything.' Thus speaks each one of us, not so rudely, not so blasphemously, but in actions, in rotten words.

We must come to our senses. I have said many times that we are saved because God loves us; yet not by the love of God only, but by our response to this love. If our wish is merely to reap the fruits of the Cross, of the crucifixion, of the days of the passion, and return nothing to God, and give nothing to our neighbour for whom God died, except a momentary thought, we are alien to everything that God accomplished for us.

Let us therefore stand before the warning, the reminder in today's Gospel and face the question, 'where is my gratitude? Do I embody it not only in words, which are rare enough but in deeds?' Let us pass judgement on ourselves and start a new life. Gratitude to God consists in being a joy to Him, and to our neighbour a support, a saviour and a joy. Let us begin today to bear the fruits of what we have just learned from God through Christ. Amen.

المسيح حجر الزاوية

«الحجر الذي رذله البناؤون هو صار رأساً للزاوية». بعد أن حكى المخلص مثل رب الكرم الذي أرسل عبيده ليأخذوا ثمر الكرم فقتلهم العملة ثم أرسل لهم ابنه فقتلوه أيضاً، ذكر هذه الآية (مزمور ١١٧: ٢٢). والنبي داود لما قال هذا قديماً كان يعني بحجر الزاوية الله نفسه، فأخذ يسوع هذا القول المتعلق بالله وطبقه على نفسه وجعل نفسه حجر الزاوية، ذاك الحجر الذي رفضه اليهود وألقوه جانباً. نعلم أن بناء العقد التقليدي كان يُشيد بحجارة تُثبت صفّاً صفّاً أي يوضع الحجر بجانب الحجر وليس بينهما لحم، بل تُسند الحجارة بالخشب حتى تصل إلى أعلى السقف، إلى فجوة لا بد أن يملأها حجر يُسمّى حجر الزاوية. وكان في القرى قديماً معلّم بناء يعرف وحده أن يختار الحجر المناسب فينحته بشكل صليب ويضعه في الفجوة، فإذا التصق التصاقاً حقيقياً بالحجارة التي بقربه شكّل «قفلاً» للبناء بكامله. هكذا تتماسك حجارة البناء كلها مترابطة بحجر واحد في أعلى السقف. أخذ يسوع هذه الصورة وقال عن نفسه انه حجر الزاوية. ونحن، كما يقول بطرس الرسول: «كونوا أنتم أيضاً مبنيين كحجارة حية بيتاً روحياً...» (١ بطرس ٢: ٥). نحن المؤمنون بالمسيح دُعينا هيكل الله ومعنى ذلك أننا ننزل من المسيح ونتماسك به، وكل منّا يتمسك بأخيه إذا تمسك بالمسيح. أي إذا كان كل منّا متحدًا بالمسيح يكون بالوقت نفسه متعلقاً بأخيه وخادماً له.

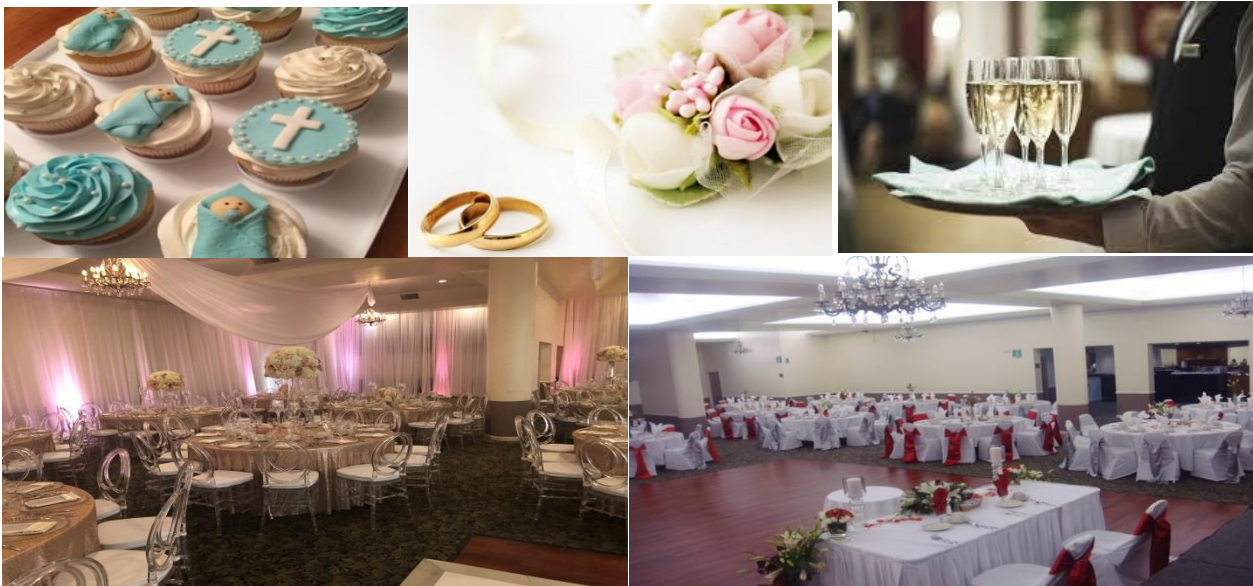
نحن أعضاء الكنيسة ليس بيننا مناصرة عصبية، لا يجمعنا تحزّب ولا عائلة من لحم ودم. ننتمي إلى أجناس وألوان مختلفة وإلى مدن مختلفة، ولكل منا تربيته وصادقاته ومزاجه، ولكل منا منافعه في الأرض، ولكننا نتجاوزها جميعاً حتى نصبح عائلة الله الواحدة حسبما قال الرسول بولس: «رب واحد، إيمان واحد، معمودية واحدة، آب واحد لكل وعلى الكل وفي الكل» (أفسس ٤: ٥). ولهذا لا ننظر في كنيستنا إلى ما يُفرّق بين الفرد والفرد، لكننا ننظر إلى ما يجمع بين الإنسان والإنسان. لقد اشترينا جميعاً بثمن وهو الدم الإلهي الذي يجري في عروقنا، ودم المسيح الذي نتناوله من الكأس المقدسة يجمعنا في عائلة واحدة. قال الرسول بولس في رسالة اليوم: «إن كان أحد لا يحب ربنا يسوع المسيح فليكن مفروزاً»، أي فليكن مقطوعاً من عضوية الكنيسة. لم يقل الرسول بولس أن من انتسب بالهوية إلى المسيحية كان مسيحياً، ولم يقل أن من اكتفى بمعموديته يكون مسيحياً. المسيحي هو من أحب يسوع المسيح بإخلاص فائق وطبق تعاليمه وسار وفقاً لوصاياه.

ثم يضيف بولس عبارة آرامية «ماران آتا»، وهذه عبارة آرامية تعني «الرب ياتي». الرب ياتي بيننا في الذبيحة الإلهية بالجسد والدم، بالمحبة المبذولة. وطالما أن الرب قد جاء إلينا ويجيء بحب يقين، لا نستطيع إلا أن نحب ربنا يسوع المسيح وأن نستند إليه لكونه حجر الزاوية. به نصير إخوة في عائلة واحدة. وإذا كان الرب يسوع هو الحياة فلا نستطيع أن نفكر في شيء آخر. الأكل والشرب والمعيشة كلها أشياء جميلة لا بد منها ولكنها جانبية إذا قيسَت بيسوع المسيح. هو حياتنا.

المطران جاورجيوس

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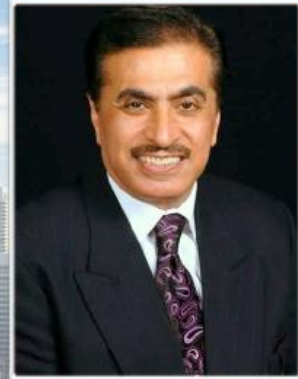
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